

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

HERITAGE ISLAND PROJECT MODIFICATION FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT SOUTHEAST QUADRANT, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

1.0 Description of Proposed Action: The proposed project entails dredging approximately 0.5 miles of tidal channel and constructing about 8 acres of inter-tidal marshes in Kingman Lake in Washington, D.C. The channel will be dredged parallel to Heritage Island in an effort to improve water flow in the lake and to provide deeper water habitat. A channel may also be dredged from the existing stormwater outfalls on the western shore of the lake to the center channel. The dredged material will be used to raise the substrate between Heritage Island and RFK Memorial Stadium to an elevation conducive to the growth of emergent vegetation. Tidal marshes will be planted with native vegetation and will provide improved habitat and water quality. A monitoring plan will be developed in consultation with resource agencies to monitor the success of the project and to determine if any adaptive measures are required. In addition, a small access path will be constructed across the north end of Heritage Island to connect two existing footbridges.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, and the District of Columbia, intend to implement the proposed project under Section 1135 (Project Modifications for Improvements of the Environment) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended.

2.0 Project Alternatives Considered: Several locations and designs were considered, including construction on the east side of the island. In consultation with the National Park Service, D.C. Government, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Geologic Service, we decided that the preferred location for the marsh construction would be between Heritage Island and RFK Stadium. This preferred location was determined to be the best site considering constructability, the likelihood for project success, cost, and ecological benefits. The access path is to be constructed in the only position that will connect the island to the adjacent mainland and Lower Kingman Island.

3.0 Anticipated Environmental Impacts: Impacts to environmental and cultural resources have been evaluated and are documented herein as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The proposed actions are not expected to result in significant impacts on environmental, cultural, or socioeconomic resources. No federally listed threatened or endangered species, prime or unique farmlands, essential fish habitat, or wild and scenic rivers will be affected. Because of the environmentally beneficial features of the proposed project and only temporary minimal adverse impacts during construction, no compensatory mitigation is proposed. Best management practices will be implemented to minimize adverse impacts during construction.

4.0 Conclusions: The proposed action, as described above, does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the natural or human environment. Because no significant impacts are expected as a result of these environmental restoration activities, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

5.0 Public Review: Individuals wishing to provide comments or request information concerning this action may do so by writing to the Baltimore District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Mr. Steve Pugh (CENAB-PL-P), P. O. Box 1715, Baltimore, Maryland, 21203-1715, or at 410-962-3639, or by email at steven.b.pugh@usace.army.mil within 30 days of publication of this finding.

Date: 9 Dec 02



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